

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 9 being independent. Claims 6-8 and 10 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

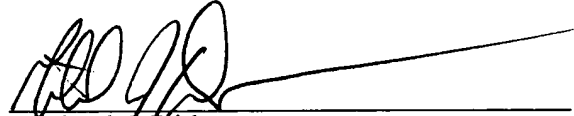
Applicant notes that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9 are allowed. Because these are the only claims remaining for consideration, this Application is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,738,039 (Katagawa). These claims (as well as claim 7, which depends from claim 6) have all been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicant's current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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